



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

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### Joint Committee on Judiciary Public Testimony March 8, 2021 Testimony in Support of House Bill 6321

Co-Chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein and Distinguished Members of the Judiciary Committee, I would like to thank the committee for hearing testimony on **House Bill 6321: An Act Concerning Adoption and Implementation of the Connecticut Parentage Act**.

This bill is an important proposal to adopt and implement the Connecticut Parentage Act. Currently, Connecticut is the only state within the New England area that does not provide any form of protection or path for non-biological parents to form a legal relationship with their children. Connecticut's outdated laws have created struggle for couples of the same gender who decide they want to conceive. The parent who does not physically give birth is required to go through a months-long process of a second parent adoption. Even further, couples must wait until the child is born to begin this process.

Furthermore, a study from Yale University Law School on the Connecticut Parentage Act has shared this exact situation. This study highlights the struggles faced by Ashley and her Finance, Adrianna, who have described this experience as "nerve-wracking". This couple is shackled in fear. If this bill is not passed, then there will be a period where "Adrianna's parentage is legally non-existent". Until Adrianna adopts, she legally has no say. Ashley's fear is that something may happen when giving birth to the child. Being pregnant can already be a stressful situation, second parent adoption is only adding more fuel to the fire of this couple's struggle.

Lastly, by adopting the Connecticut Parentage Act, we can ensure that gaps will be filled in our existing law and guarantee equal access to legal parentage for all our children, regardless of whether these parents are unmarried, the same-sex, or nonbiological to the child.

I urge the Judiciary Committee to act favorably on House Bill 6321: It is time we stand up for these children, so they are not left insecure and vulnerable. Thank you for your consideration